

Juliana Sissons: Couture Collection
Saturday 19 February,
Medieval and Renaissance Room 50a
13.30 & 15.00

Fashion designer, Juliana Sissons, participated in the V&A's Artist in Residency programme between July and December 2010. During this time Juliana used the V&A's medieval and renaissance galleries for research and was particularly inspired by the armour collection and by images depicting armour within the many tapestries and sculpture. Sissons' new collection on show today is of developmental knitted pieces inspired by the research, skills, exploration and textile experimentation gained during her residency. Like armour, these pieces can be worn separately or can be worn in conjunction with other items from the collection to make up whole outfits.

The links between historic armour and fashion are extremely close. To complement Juliana's collection, selections from the Museum's armour collection will be available for visitors to examine.

Collection:

1. Oyster cotton knitted dress with warm gold copper wire inserts; detachable sleeves and collar
2. Black cotton knitted dress with black copper wire and gold lurex lace panels; detachable sleeves
3. Black elastic and grey cotton knitted playsuit with grey cotton and black ribbon knitted collar attachment; detachable sleeves
4. Flesh elastic and oyster cotton knitted playsuit; detachable sleeves
5. Glaze linen knitted dress with loop detail; detachable sleeves
6. Mink grey cotton knitted suit with tuck pleated detail; detachable collar
7. Black wool knitted suit with light gold copper wire inserts; detachable sleeves
8. Black wool knitted suit with light gold copper wire trim and slash detail; detachable sleeves

The Residency Programme gives artists, makers and designers of all kinds a unique opportunity to have a studio in the Museum for six months. As well as working on their own practice, Residents create individual programmes of events and activities involving collections and visitors. Using these studios as a base, residents have access to the V&A's unique resources including the extensive collections, curatorial and conservation expertise, practical art, design and digital media workshops and experienced educational and outreach staff.

Residents hold regular Open Studios sessions for visitors to drop in, meet the Resident and discuss their work in progress. There are three studios: two in the Sackler Centre for arts education which are multi-disciplinary, and a fully equipped studio space right in the middle of the Ceramics galleries amongst the collection itself.

The V&A Residency Programme supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

With special thanks to Vikki Haffenden who worked closely with Juliana to develop the digitally enabled knitted textiles in the collection; (no's 3 and 4); these fabrics were developed on the Industrial Shima Seiki knitting system at the University of Brighton.